

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 12 April 1512 and proved 8 August 1514, of Robert Maye, whose widow married the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring (d.1523), who together with John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, was a major benefactor of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham. See:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/church_gallery_03.shtml

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

In the will below the testator makes no mention of a wife or wives. However, it seems he married twice, and that his widow, Alice Appleton Maye (d.1538), married the wealthy clothier, Thomas Spring (d.1523), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/21/179.

In the will below the testator names two sons and four grandchildren:

* **John Maye th' elder** (d.1517). According to the will below, he had three sons and a daughter:

-**Robert Maye**. He is mentioned in his grandfather's will below, and in his father's will. In the will below he is referred to as the testator's godson, and is bequeathed 100 marks.

-**John Maye the younger**. He is mentioned in his grandfather's will below, and in his father's will. In the will below he is bequeathed £40.

-**Edward Maye**. Although he is mentioned in his grandfather's will below, he appears to have died before his father, John Maye the elder, made his will on 12 August 1517. In the will below he is bequeathed £40.

- **Joan Maye**. She is mentioned in her grandfather's will below, and in her father's will. In the will below she is bequeathed £40.

* **John Maye the younger**. He is mentioned both in his father's will below, and in the will of his brother, John Maye the elder. In the will below he is bequeathed 100 marks and a tenement occupied by Thomas Lovedaye.

The will of the testator's elder son, John Maye (d.1517), indicates that by his second wife, Alice Appleton Maye, the testator had a daughter, Alice Maye. See the will of John Maye (d.1517), TNA PROB 11/18/540.

RM: Test{amentu}m Rob{e}rti Maye

In the name of God, Amen. The 12th day of the month of April in the year of Our Lord God 1512, I, Robert Maye of Bocking of the jurisdiction of Canterbury, of whole mind and good remembrance, thanked be God, make this my testament containing my last will in manner and form following:

First I commend my soul to Almighty God, to his Blessed Mother Saint Mary Virgin, and to all the holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the churchyard of Bocking foresaid;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said parish church of Bocking for my tithes and offerings negligently withdrawn 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to John Maye the younger, my son, 100 mark sterling [=£66 13s 4d] by the five score to be paid to him in this manner following, that is to wit, at the feast of Pentecost next after the date hereof 50 mark sterling, and at the feast of Pentecost then next following 50 mark sterling in full payment of the said 100 mark;

Item, I bequeath to the same John Maye the younger, my son, my tenement that Thomas Lovedaye dwelleth in, to do his pleasure therewith;

Item, I bequeath to Robert Maye, my godson, the son of John Maye th' elder, my son, 5 score marks sterling [=£66 13s 4d] to be paid to the said Robert by the hands of mine executor within named or his assigns at his full age of 21 years;

Item, I bequeath to John Maye the younger and to Edward Maye, the sons of the foresaid John Maye th' elder, my son, and to Joan Maye, [-my] daughter of the same John Maye th' elder, my son, to each of them three, £40 sterling, to be paid to them by the hands of mine executor within named at their full age of 20 year;

And if it fortune any of the said 3 children to decease before other and within the said age of 20 years, then I will that the other overliving enjoy the parts of thoo [=those] that deceased egally;

And if it fortune all three children to decease within age, then I will that the said money to them bequeathed remain in the hands of mine executor within named to be disposed after my said executor's discretion for the weal of my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to John Gawge, my godson, 40s to be paid to him at his full age of 20 year;

Item, I bequeath to Edward Bullock, my servant, £3 sterling to [+be?] paid to him at the coming out of his term;

Item, I bequeath to John Awncell, William Martyn, John Usher, John Garnesy, Richard Hodge, John Holberd, Richard Gerard, Roger Holberd, Alen Kent and to Edmund Browght, mine apprentices, to each of them 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to William Christmas of Bocking foresaid th' elder, my best gown;

The residue of all my goods and chattels as well movable as unmovable not bequeathed, my debts first paid and my legacies fulfilled, I give and bequeath to the forenamed John Maye th' elder, my son, whom I ordain and assign to be mine sole executor, these being witness: William Christmas of Bocking foresaid th' elder, and John Byrd of Branktree [=Braintree?], notary.

Made the day and year before written.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lambhith viij^o die Mensis Augusti Anno domini Millesimo vicesimo quarto decimo habentis & bona siue debita in diversis diocesis nostre Cantuariensis provincie Iuramento Executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Et commissaria fuit administratio omnium bonorum & de bene et fideliter administratio & Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario & Reddendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 8th day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand 500 fourteen, having etc. goods or debts in divers dioceses of our province of Canterbury, by the oath of the executor named in the same testament, and administration was grant of all the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc., and to render a full and faithful inventory.]